

MINUTES
INDIANA BOARD OF FIREFIGHTING
PERSONNEL STANDARDS AND EDUCATION MEETING

August 3rd 2015 6pm
Evansville FD
550 SE 8th St
Evansville IN 47714
812-435-6235

- A Meeting called to order at 6pm

Present

Greg Wyant, Chair
Burke Jones, Vice-chair
Rob Lund, Secretary
John Smith
James Greeson
Tom Hanify
Eric Dreiman
Eric Gentry
Joe Romero

ABSENT

Chris Johnson

- B. June minutes as submitted, Burke Jones made a motion to approve. Joe Romero seconded. Motion passed.

- C Variance requests;

1. Dan Siek requested a variance from 655 IAC 1-1-12(e) to allow the following students, each of whom currently is 16 years of age and a junior, to take the written examinations for [Mandatory, Firefighter I, Firefighter II, Firefighter I/II,

and Hazardous Materials Awareness and Operations,] prior to taking the practical skills examinations, with the variance to be valid until their 19th birthday:

And

655 IAC 1-1-12(h) to allow the following students to take the practical skills examinations for [Mandatory, Firefighter I, Firefighter II, Firefighter I/II, and Hazardous Materials Awareness and Operations] at the age of 17 years and 1 week and have their passing score remain valid until their 18th birthday, with the variance to be valid until their 19th birthday:

Matthew Benzenbower; Collin Billyeu; Blake Dietzer; Kody Eldridge; Brycen Hansen; Ryan Houser; Michael Pickett; Logan Wehrly; and Parker Rayne

Staff recommends approval.

John Smith made a motion to approve. Eric Gentry seconded. Motion passed.

2. Chris Gorbett requested a variance for 655 IAC 1-1-12(h) to allow the following students to take the practical skills examinations for [Mandatory, Firefighter I, Firefighter II, Firefighter I/II, and Hazardous Materials Awareness and Operations] at the age of 17 years and 1 week and have their passing score remain valid until their 18th birthday, with the variance to be valid until their 19th birthday:

Bandon Baker; Tim Blye; Austin Bolden; Jacob Chase; Brenda Cordenas; Mitchell Dukes; Matthew Grammer; Keely Payne; Karsen Scheumann; Noah Vanderkleed and Matthew Welborn.

Staff recommends approval.

Rob Lund made a motion to approve. Eric Dreiman seconded. Motion passed.

3. John Crothier, South Bend Community School Corp and Ivy Tech Community College is requesting a variance from 655 IAC 1-1-12(e) to allow the following students, each of whom currently is 16 years of age and a junior, to take the written examinations for [Mandatory, Firefighter I, Firefighter II, Firefighter I/II, and Hazardous Materials Awareness and Operations,] prior to taking the practical skills examinations, with the variance to be valid until their 19th birthday:

And

655 IAC 1-1-12(h) to allow the following students to take the practical skills examinations for [Mandatory, Firefighter I, Firefighter II, Firefighter I/II, and Hazardous Materials Awareness Operations] at the age of 17 years and 1 week and have their passing score remain valid until their 18th birthday, with the variance to be valid until their 19th birthday:

Roland Austin; Luke Catanzarite; Marco Chanon; Jordy Garcia; Taiwan Jackson; Vernon Johnson; Cesar Marques; Cortland Mayes; Ciara Robinson ; Truman Spaulding; Stephen Torrijas; Joseph Wells; and Jalen Williams

Staff recommends approval.

Eric Dreiman made a motion to approve. Rob Lund seconded. Motion passed.

4. Seth Nichols requested a variance for Instructor I based on his Bachelor of Science in Education from Indiana University. Mr. Nichols holds several fire certifications dating back to 2006 and has met the prerequisites for this certification.

Staff recommends approval pending his passing the instructor reciprocity test.

Burke Jones made a motion to approve staff recommendation. Joe Romero seconded. Motion passed.

5. Jeff Wellman requested a variance for retesting. He failed an exam at the Jasper Fire School in 2014 and due to medical issues was not able to retest within the 180 days. He is asking to be able to retest at this time and an extension on this practical skills.

Staff has no recommendation at this time.

John Smith made a motion to approve pending testing is complete no later than October 3, 2015. Joe Romero seconded. Motion passed.

6. Michele Zachary requested a variance for Instructor I. She holds a valid Primary Instructor, has several fire certifications and meets the prerequisite for the certification.

Staff recommends approval pending her passing the Instructor reciprocity test.

Eric Gentry made a motion to approve. Rob Lund seconded. Motion passed.

7. Ken Zuber requested a variance for Instructor I. He held Instructor II/III but it expired in 2009. He is asking for Instructor I based on being a First Class Instructor and an NFA course that he took in 2014.

Staff recommends approval pending his passing the Instructor reciprocity test.

Grey Wyant made a motion to approve. John Smith seconded. Motion passed.

D. James Greeson, State Fire Marshal report;

HB1414 allows schools to conduct 1 tornado test and/or 1 manmade disaster in each semester, instead of a fire drill. Then you have to have a fire drill the other months. Fire drills are held monthly and this will let you substitute these each semester. This is new, and we need to be prepared for all circumstances. The schools are encouraged to do monthly drills but they are allowed to substitute tornado or manmade disasters.

Fire reporting is still on track with Image Trend to go live next month. If you do not have a log in yet, contact Angie at abiggs@dhs.in.gov and she will help you get your log in set up. For routine training, there is a tab that you can enter it into this program. Again, Angie will send you directions on how to do this. It is really easy to record routine training.

Oct 4-10 is fire prevention week. The slogan this year is "Hear the beep where you sleep".

TN has developed a program that they will share with us, that identifies the areas with fire fatalities without smoke alarms, distributed smoke alarms and people actually got out. They are going to share this program with us. It shows how affective fire alarms can be.

We have a few grants to purchase smoke alarms with and we can distribute smoke alarms again this year.

You can contact your Red Cross facility and get assistance on smoke alarms.

E Joe Romero, Director of Training report;

At the last Board meeting I discussed the preparedness training and exercise needs assessment with LSU and Texas A & M. We have taken this to districts 1, 2, 3 and 8 so far. These classes will continue through Sept. The pilot program will continue to be used as a needs assessment. A few weeks ago Indiana received an invitation from NYFD, to attend a structural collapse course in GA. This will be

an opportunity to train with this team. It will be a 40 hour exercise. We have been rostering interested people. This facility is similar to MUTC but larger.

F. John Buckman, fire training report;

1) Fire Officer Strategy and Tactics Beta testing report

We did 20 beta tests. Results will be submitted at the Sept. meeting. The new program will be about 60% skills. The committee also stated that the test needs 50 questions instead of 25 questions. We will be using EDMODO and U-Tube for the scenarios. Lead evaluators should attend the train-to-trainers that will be available. Not mandatory, but they really should attend this training. There will be an instructor guide available.

2) Separating Instructor II and III

Will be discussed at the Sept meeting. There is no short cut without a rule change for this to happen. We need to make a list of the reasons that this change would benefit the state. This could happen in 8-12 months. Jim Campbell asked about the proposal he wrote up and John Buckman stated that they are still looking at it. Per legal, we do not have an instructor 2 certification so right now we cannot separate them. We need the rule change in order to change the certifications. First step is to notify OMB that we would like to change rules and why.

3) Renewing Instructor using IFSAC as reciprocity

If you pay the \$20 fee and get your instructor I certification, you can use IFSAC reciprocity to reinstate it, without the continued education hours. We would like to close this loop hole. Greg stated that he did not see where recertification had an exception for IFSAC. John Smith stated that this should not be allowed since everyone else has to meet the requirements for recertification. The decision is that we will produce a procedure with an effective date to start this; the individual will have appeal rights if denied. Burke Jones feels that they could take a reciprocity test.

4) Old certs vs new certs

Master certification vs current certification.

If you want to be a lead instructor or lead evaluator, they need to come in front of the Board, answer a couple of questions and then be certified. John Crothier stated that he felt you should have to show CEU's before you can go and teach a current certification class or evaluate skills. We currently have approximately 657 that hold both a master certification and an Instructor I or Instructor II/III that have never crossed over the master certification. Eric Dreiman does not want to alienate anyone that does consistently train. Really does not want to deal with a

case by case, but come up with a policy that is consistent. Coaching and training templates should help with this issue.

Chris Johnson feels that policy should not stand in the way of valid qualified individuals training firefighters.

Greg Wyant suggested that if you hold a master, then you have to go through the coaching program. This would bring you up to speed, and the instructor would be ready to teach the program. Coaching consists of 4-20 total hours.

How do we notify current masters that might be impacted, see what type of interest in this and find out if they even want to teach anymore. Staff will notify the coach and he will contact this person and talk with them and then find out if they are ready to teach the class.

5) Retest policy

We have individuals that if you did not show up to take your initial test, they will register you in the retest. This individual will not have a test created them. it is not a retest for him. The proctor would have to go and create a new course number for them, resubmit skills under the new course number. A retest is for those that failed the first attempt, not that they did not show for the initial attempt.

6) DO committee and skills update, beta

Last week a committee met and updated the skills for DO and they chose a different book. Right now we are using the IFSTA manual and the committee decided to go with Jones and Bartlett. They felt this was a better book, less fluff, and all 3 disciplines are in one book. We would like to beta test the skills. The test bank will be ready around Nov. and we would like to be able to put the whole package together and in use by the first of the year. The Board approved the beta testing. Burke Jones approved beta testing. Eric Gentry seconded. Motion passed.

Last year:

Registered courses:2284

Students registered 22955

Students actually tested 16556

504 individual lead instructors that registered a course

584 individual lead evaluators

863 different test sites

694 tests were for 1 student, this is normally a challenge course

50% of all courses registered are now on line testing

7) Non-rule policies

We will separate them and post them on the web page under Fire Board site.

Tom Hanify made motion to approve the posting the content on the web page.
Rob Lund seconded. Motion passed.

Tom Hanify spoke about the 2 year wait to make rule changes and requests to get this started.

8) Discipline policy:

We have a peer review group that meets and decides what to do. Starting now, we will notify the individual what the group decides and then the individual will have appeal rights. The peer group will also, now be able to talk to the individual and get another prospective on what happened.

Eric Dreiman wants this to be timely, from the time the state is notified about an incident, notify the defendant and then move the process forward. We need to put time limits on this so that it keeps moving through the process. Use the state merit rules and use those time frames.

To revoke a certification is a permanent move. The individual can never get this back. You cannot ever test for it.

Legal advised that the staff can revoke a certification under certain circumstances. The individual still has the right to appeal to the Board on the action.

9) We have to AFG grants to purchase propane props and training around the state. 1 for a car fire and 1 is a Christmas tree.

G. Open Discussion

1. Fire and Public Safety Academy

a. Boards level of involvement

Marshal Greeson, we added 2 new Board members for this, 1 EMS person and 1 EMA person. We wanted the people going to be involved to be on the Board. The intent is that as new curriculum is developed, it is important to have representation from those groups to have a say in what happens.

Telecommunications is one of the new training programs and no one here right now knows anything about this. It might help to have a Board member sit on committee to help develop training.

What level of involvement do you want? Right now we meet about every 2 weeks.

This is how to organize this, staffing needs. We are talking about internally on how to develop the system. EMS does a lot more approvals than the fire Board

does. We need to hear from you what level of detail you want to be involved in. There is no significant change to the authority of the Fire Board or the EMS commission. This is something that the Board needs to decide, at what level you want to be involved.

Tom Hanify stated that what we have is more rigid than other states but we try to accommodate overall, but what we do not have is executive training or networking program. The program can teach individuals how to read a budget, create budget, work a budget, this is the training that a lot of officers do not get and this would teach the fire person to reach the executive level.

H. Legal Issues:

1. Administrative Cause No. 14-27; William Ortiz

Burke Jones made a motion to approve the non-final order of dismissal. Rob Lund seconded. Motion passed.

J Old business;

K. New business;

On Sept 1, 2015 we have the Police and Fire Memorial service. We are adding 5 people this year, 2 of which died from line of duty cancer deaths. It starts at 11:30 am, runs about 45 minutes. It is at the Memorial across from the state house.

L Meeting adjourned 8:05 pm

Burke Jones made a motion to adjourn. Rob Lund seconded. Motion passed.

NEXT MEETING:

Sept 28, 6 pm
Ivy Tech Homeland Security/Public Safety
Tech 4 Building
1313 Touby Pike
Kokomo IN 46901
317-496-9625

Handouts attached at end of minutes.